

Moran Sponsored Drought Assistance Passes House

Kansas Farmers, Ranchers Eligible for Drought Relief

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that the House of Representatives has passed a \$3 billion package of assistance for drought-stricken farmers and ranchers across the country. Moran helped lead the effort to pass the assistance, which was included as part of assistance for hurricane damage in the southeastern United States.

"As in Florida, farmers in the Great Plains have endured significant losses at the hands of Mother Nature," Moran said. "The assistance will help offset that damage and will help farmers and ranchers across the U.S. recover from these weather-related disasters."

According to Kansas State University research, Kansas alone lost \$1.1 billion of its economy in 2001 and 2002 due to drought. In 2003, it is estimated that producers lost \$275 million; and this year, wheat producers lost another \$150 million. Over half of those losses occurred in northwest Kansas, which has suffered from drought for a solid five years.

The assistance passed by the House today would apply to losses suffered in either 2003 or 2004. The Senate is now considering this legislation.

"For far too long, our farmers, ranchers and Kansas communities have been struggling from the results of this multi-year drought," Moran said. "While some rain has fallen this summer, it's been too little, too late. This disaster package will hopefully help as Kansans work to save their farms as their livelihood and for future generations."

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